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III. Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Office Action rejected claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being assertedly anticipated by Denk (U.S. Patent 5,304,883). Briefly, the Official Action asserted that Denk discloses a flux return 30 as described in column 2 lines 7-11, a top plate 14, a bottom plate 16, a magnet 24 as described in column 1 lines 59-64 with a top magnetic gap between the top plate and the flux return and a bottom magnetic gap between the bottom plate and the flux return.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In contrast to the present invention, Denk does not disclose the magnet between the top and bottom plates, and the top magnetic gap between the flux return assembly and the top plate, and the bottom magnetic gap between the flux return assembly and the bottom plate, as recited in claim 21.

Referring to FIG. 1 in the Denk patent, a flux collector stack 30 is disposed between a top plate 14 and a bottom plate 16. Denk does not teach or suggest a magnet between the top plate 14 and the bottom plate 16. Accordingly, Denk does not teach or suggest the magnetic gap between the flux return assembly and the top plate, and the bottom magnetic gap between the flux return assembly and the bottom plate because the flux collector stack 30 in Denk is disposed between the top and bottom plates and cannot form a physical gap with the top and or bottom plates as presently claimed.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 21 is allowable over Denk, along with respective dependent claims 22-30.

IV. Conclusion

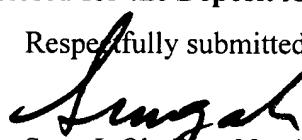
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application patentably distinguish over the cited and applied references and are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned representative at (213) 689-5176 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853 during the pendency of prosecution of this application. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for the Deposit Account, should it be needed.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 62 without prejudice.

Please amend claim(s) 58-60 as follows:

58. (Amended) A method for increasing the magnetic flux lines running through a magnetic gap of an electromagnetic drive motor, comprising the steps of:

providing a top and bottom plates juxtaposed to respective top and bottom magnetic gaps within an electromagnetic drive motor;

providing [more surface area in] a top tip coupled to the top plate juxtaposed to the top magnetic gap; and

providing [more surface area in] a bottom tip coupled to the bottom plate juxtaposed to the bottom magnetic gap.

59. (Amended) A method according to claim 58, further comprising the steps of:

providing a flux return, wherein the top and bottom magnetic gaps are between the flux return and the top and bottom plates. [; and]

[providing more surface area in the flux return juxtaposed to the top and bottom magnetic gaps.]

60. (Amended) A method according to claim 58, [wherein more surface area is provided in the top plate by a top plate tip and more surface area is provided in the bottom plate by a bottom plate tip,] wherein the top and bottom plate tips face towards each other.

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